

**From:** Mike Ramstrom  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 12/9/01 9:08pm  
**Subject:** The nine states are correct, don't cave in.

Dear People:

Don't give in, I know you already have, but you shouldn't have. Running away because the administration has changed, the republicans are in, Gates is a cash cow for American foreign trade... just isn't right. The message is that rich people do control the agenda through campaign contributions and the old boy network. We have to suffer from the mafia like tactics, the smothering hubris, the clearly monopolistic practices of giving away something for free to destroy innovative competition (actually folding the costs into escalation operating system costs) and those of us who have been around a while don't like it.

If only Digital Research had said yes to IBM. Then Gates wouldn't have made his first theft of CPM, we would have a more open source advocate in charge of the key pieces of our computer world the operating system and gui. The standards would have still been established, more people would be rewarded for creating products that interacted with those standards and each others products, and we would have had real capitalism rather than the terrible situation we now endure.

Force Microsoft to unbundle. To disclose all interfaces and code of the operating system and gui. To price any add ons outside of the kernel and thus have to really compete. This will allow the kernel and gui to be completely debugged by peer review, making a much more secure operating environment, and security will be a big issue in the coming decade with the war on terror shifting into gear. Addons such as Outlook Express will cost money, and will probably be dropped in favor of products which don't have such an abominable reputation as a security black hole.

Keep in mind that IBM's unbundling of hardware/software/applications/operating system... led to the PC and the world of computing/networking as we now know it. We will be better off if Microsoft has to really compete.

Thanks  
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